

Application No. 10/783,371
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE TITLE

The title has been amended to more clearly indicate the nature of the invention to which the claims are directed, as required by the Examiner.

THE CLAIMS

Independent claims 1 and 11-13 have been amended to more clearly and positively recite the features of the present invention shown, for example, in Figs. 5-7, and described in the specification at pages 22-29. See also, for example, (now canceled) claims 5-7.

In addition, claims 1-4 and 8-16 have been amended to make some minor grammatical improvements and to correct some minor antecedent basis problems so as to put them in better form for issuance in a U.S. patent, and claims 2-4 and 8-10 have also been amended to better accord with amended independent claim 1.

Still further, new independent method claims 20-22 have been prepared based on independent claims 11, 12 and 1, respectively.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to claims 1-4 and 8-16 and the

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addition of new claims 20-22 be approved and entered. It is respectfully requested, moreover, and that the Examiner's objection to the claims be withdrawn.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 6,222,539 ("Watts"). This rejection, however, are respectfully traversed.

As recognized by the Examiner, Watts discloses a printer in which, when toner is running low a message indicating that toner is low is displayed. A question mark is displayed next to the low toner message to indicate that help is available. And when help is available, a help mode can be entered to display and scroll through a help message.

It is respectfully submitted, however, that Watts merely discloses indicating that detailed help is available for a particular problem. And it is respectfully submitted that Watts does not disclose, teach or suggest displaying a help message when the question mark is not displayed (i.e., when no detailed help is available).

By contrast, according to the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 11-13 and new independent claims 20-22, when a help key is operated, a help message is displayed that is either detailed help information relating to a

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displayed message or help information relating to a setting window for setting at least one condition for formation of an image.

More specifically, according to amended independent claim 1 and new independent method claim 22, if a message displayed by the display section corresponds to stored detailed information, the display section displays identification information, which indicates that the detailed information corresponding to the message is available for display, together with the message. The control section causes the display section to display the detailed information of the message as the help message if the help key is operated while the identification information is displayed on the display section. In addition, the control section causes the display section to display detailed information concerning the setting window as the help message if the help key is operated while the identification information is not displayed on the display section.

According to amended independent claim 11 and new independent method claim 20, moreover, when the help key is operated while a message indicating that the image formation cannot be started is displayed on the display section, the control section controls the display section to display the detailed information concerning the message as the help message. In addition, when the help key is operated while the message

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indicating that the image formation cannot be started is not displayed on said display section, the control section controls the display section to display detailed information concerning the setting window as the help message.

In addition, according to amended independent claim 12 and new independent method claim 21, when the help key is operated while a message that includes an operation instruction for the user is displayed on said display section, the control section controls the display section to display the detailed information of the operating instruction as the help message. And when the help key is operated while the message that includes the operation instruction is not displayed on the display section, the control section controls the display section to display detailed information concerning the setting window as the help message.

Still further, according to amended independent claim 13, when detailed information concerning a message displayed on the display section is stored in the memory, the control section controls the display section to display the detailed information concerning the message as the help message when the help key is operated. In addition, when no detailed information concerning the message displayed on the display section is stored in the memory, the control section controls the display section to display detailed information concerning the setting window as the help message.

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With the structure of the present invention as recited in each of independent claims 1, 11-13 and 20-22 it is possible to display a different help message to more accurately help a user in accordance whether or not the identification information is displayed, whether or not a message stating that image formation can not be started is displayed, whether or not a message for an operation command is displayed, or whether or not details of the message are stored in a memory.

Thus, according to the claimed present invention, it is possible to provide an image forming apparatus which can conveniently display the detailed message required by the user without performing troublesome operations such as, for example, selecting an item of the message which is desired by a user to display as a help message.

It is respectfully submitted that Watts clearly does not disclose, teach or suggest the features of the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 11-13 and new independent claims 20-22 whereby when a help key is operated, a help message is displayed that is either detailed help information relating to a displayed message or help information relating to a setting window for setting at least one condition for formation of an image.

Accordingly it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 1 and 11-13, new independent claims 20-22, and

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amended claims 2-4 and 8-10 depending from claim 1, all clearly
patentably distinguish over Watts, under 35 USC 102 as well as
under 35 USC 103.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the
passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or
recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the
undersigned for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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